



NETWORKS

Advisory Council

NATIONAL NETWORK,
LOCAL CONNECTIONS
PROGRAMME

Terms of Reference, May 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

The decarbonisation of Irish society relies on fundamental changes to how energy is generated and consumed. To support Ireland's 2030 Climate Action Plan targets, by 2030 ESB Networks has committed to:

1. Enable our customers to adopt up to 936,000 electric vehicles and 600,000 heat pumps.
2. Connect up to an additional 10 GW of renewable generation so Ireland can reach 80% renewable electricity.

To enable these changes at the right pace and the right price, we need to make the connection between how renewable energy is generated, and how and when we use or store it. **As such, the Climate Action Plan 2021 introduced an enabling target of 20-30% of system demand to be flexible by 2030.**

Every Irish home, farm, community, and business is being called on to play a part by using or storing renewable electricity flexibly, when it is available to them locally. The National Network, Local Connections Programme has been established to work with, and for, customers to make this possible.

As this objective can only be achieved with the support and close collaboration of our stakeholders, an Advisory Council is being established to help shape the programme with stakeholders' perspectives.

2 REMIT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is being established to guide and inform National Networks, Local Connections programme decision making and policy development. Its role is to ensure that stakeholders have early and ongoing transparency of programme developments and an opportunity to shape the direction of the programme. The remit and purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

- Review and support the progress of the National Networks, Local Connections Programme.
- Ensure programme information is shared with the wider stakeholder community which Advisory Council participants represent.
- Provide a forum to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on programme issues and;
- Provide perspectives, advice and assistance on matters related to the programme and its implementation

3 MEMBERSHIP

The National Network, Local Connections Programme will seek expression of interests for membership of the Advisory Council from representatives across the energy industry (e.g., renewable generators, energy suppliers, demand response aggregators), community and business bodies, the sustainability and academic sectors, emerging energy companies and other stakeholders to the programme.

Following a review of expressions of interest received, the initial membership of the Advisory Council will be determined by National Networks, Local Connections management team to ensure the breadth of perspectives we need. Members are appointed ad personam and therefore alternates shall only be allowed following prior approval by the Chair. The participants should have relevant experience in one or more of the following areas and represent or lead a wide group of stakeholders, beyond their own organisation :

- End customers' electricity demand side management
- Emerging energy or technology solutions for end customers
- Supply of electricity or energy services to end customers
- Renewable energy integration, project development, performance capabilities
- Community energy or sustainability initiatives
- Sustainability research, communications, and education
- Energy economics and/or environmental psychology

4 SCHEDULE AND FORMAT

- The Advisory Council will meet at least every 4 months (three times a year).
- The meetings will be chaired by the National Networks, Local Connections programme manager.
- The programme will provide updates and, along with others, will bring key issues for discussion. Any stakeholder can propose items for inclusion in the agenda.
- Minutes and actions will be recorded, with a summary of each meeting published
- Meetings may be held more frequently when necessary to build momentum and;
- Ad-hoc meetings outside the regular schedule will be held on an exceptional basis as required

5 OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The Advisory Council shall operate with a high level of transparency.

- A draft agenda shall be drawn up by the Chair, based on stakeholder and programme proposals, and circulated no later than five business days before the meeting.
- Documents that are necessary for the meetings shall be normally circulated to the members of the Advisory Council at least five business days before the meeting.
- Subsequent to the meeting and within 10 business days draft minutes from the meeting will be circulated to all Advisory Council members by email.
- A summary of each meeting will be published, and the list of members of the Advisory Council shall be made public.

All costs incurred by members of the Advisory Council will be at their own expense.